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Class Specifications
for the Class:

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATOR

Duties Summary:

Operates and maintains motorized vessels in support of scientific research and training in protected waters and up to approximately 35 miles from shore; and performs other related duties as assigned.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

A position in this class is responsible for the safe operation and proper maintenance of motorized vessels, including those approximately 40 feet in length, used in scientific research or training during the day and also at night. A high level of navigational skill is required since expeditions occasionally require navigating beyond visual contact of land and operation at night often requires the use of radar and depth recorder to safely navigate near the shoreline.

A position in this class makes decisions related to personnel and vessel safety when underway or on station, including deciding whether to cancel an expedition based on safety considerations.

When the vessel is underway or on station, exercises control over one to three crew members, including research members, on activities related to boating safety such as the proper loading and storage of equipment and materials. Also leads others, including student workers, in the cleaning, scraping/painting and other routine maintenance of vessels.

Examples of Duties:

Operates a motorized vessel in both protected and off-shore waters; plots course and position using navigational aids such as charts, sextant, radar, loran, radio directional finder (RDF), and depth recorders; acquires appropriate knowledge to facilitate in-shore activities; navigates a vessel engaged in benthic or pelagic trawling, trolling, plankton and water sampling, and dredge sampling; supervises working crew aboard vessel and makes all decisions relating to personnel and vessel safety when underway or on station; communicates with research party chief regarding operations and requirements; constructs and repairs research sampling gear; works with supervisor to establish maintenance schedules for all vessels operated by agency; performs routine maintenance on marine engine and boat equipment such as changing

oil and filters, lubricating and greasing, and performing routine repairs of water pumps, steering gear and deck gear; inspects vessels to ensure safe operation and proper maintenance; supervises and participates in cleaning and painting vessels; maintains records concerning vessel operations and safety equipment service requirements and insures that all safety equipment are in usable condition; conducts orientation classes for students and faculty in the safe use of outboard vessels; assists maintenance mechanics in the routine servicing of small boats, including hull repair and minor engine maintenance; repairs tanks, pier and dock facilities; may perform emergency repairs of vessel while out at sea; may provide first aid treatment in case of emergency.

Knowledge and Abilities Required:

Knowledge of: Maritime rules of the road; navigational aids used to plot course and position of vessels; vessel safety procedures relating to personnel, equipment and operation; currents, wind, wave and hazardous conditions characteristic of boating in Hawaiian waters; boat and engine maintenance requirements and repair practices and techniques; use of tools commonly used in the repair and maintenance of boats; mechanical and electro-mechanical devices related to boats; and proper boat handling techniques.

Ability to: Plot course and position of vessel; use navigational aids such as charts, sextant, radar, communications radio, loran, radio directional finder, and depth recorder; see distant objects, distinguish basic colors, and see well at night; lead the work of others; learn and properly execute research sampling techniques; construct and repair sampling gear; swim; lift and carry up to 50 lbs.; determine appropriate vessel and supplies required for activities involved; and communicate effectively orally and in writing.

This is the first specification for the new class RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATOR.

Effective date: May 16, 1988

DATE APPROVED: 6/5/89

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Department of Personnel Services